

Wolf Pack receives CINC awards

By 1st Lt. Kelly Cahalan
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Kunsan Air Base recently received eight 2001 Commander-in-Chief annual special recognition awards for installation excellence.

The CINC's annual award for installation excellence special recognition category is a presidential level award that identifies units, teams, projects and individuals demonstrating the spirit of overall installation excellence.

Since Kunsan won the 2000 CINC's installation excellence award, the base was ineligible to compete for the 2001 Best in Air Force Installation honor. However, the wing's programs and people remained eligible to compete in the special recognition category.

The special recognition award looks at contributions geared toward enhancing working conditions, quality of life and costumer service, innovation and other exemplary practices that warrant recognition by the Secretary of Defense.

The 8th Maintenance Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Darryl Sweetwine, won special recognition for its outstanding Air Force cost savings, its exercise and inspection performances and its level of community service.

"The talent and commitment is what makes us stand

out as a squadron," said Sweetwine. "I've never worked with a more dedicated or focused group of people."

According to the awards package, 8th MXS people were hailed for demonstrating creativity, innovation and dedication throughout the year, directly supporting more than 9,000 sorties while maintaining 98 percent maintenance scheduling effectiveness.

The 8th Security Forces Squadron, led by Lt. Col. Jennifer Perry, also won special recognition, not only for its superior performances during multiple exercises and last year's Operational Readiness Inspection, but also for base defense improvements, training programs, management of its resources augmentation duty or READY troops and the integration of U.S. Army PATRIOT Batteries and Republic of Korea army and air force troops into base defense.

"The Defender motto is 'One Team, One Fight,' certainly getting recognition for our efforts at this level is proof of excellence across the board at Kunsan," said Perry.

Two 8th Civil Engineer Squadron flights received awards-the operations flight and the engineering flight.

The operations flight was recognized for having a significant impact on Kunsan quality of life improvements, including the replacement of water pipes in 13 dormitories, construction of crew chief shelters near all hardened aircraft shelters and a number of other pro-

jects.

The engineering flight carried out \$17 million in high-visibility projects while cutting design times by 75 percent. Among other achievements, the flight also saved the Air Force \$180 million in contract fees by completing \$2 million worth of in-house repairs, improving workplace quality in 24 facilities.

"The Engineering Flight was selected 'Best in Air Force' for 2000—they are an incredible team. The amount of work they get done is phenomenal," said Lt. Col. Tom Brown, 8th CES commander, "Every Kunsan class benefits from the work these folks do, from new dorms to squadron operations facilities. They're working today to give future Wolf Pack members a new commissary in a few years. It's exciting to see their hard work recognized outside Kunsan."

The following individuals were recognized for their individual contributions program excellence, Capt. Amy Vanderveer, 8th CES former chief of design; Master Sgt. John Dicus, 8th Communications Squadron's former network control center chief; Technical Sgt. Donald Cloutier, 8th CS NCO in-charge of telephone systems; and Senior Amn. Leslie Nidey, 8th CS former ground radar systems technician.

Each of the individual winners were cited for their outstanding leadership and dedication to the overall mission of the wing.

Space-A travel opens for non-command sponsored families

By Lt. Col. Matt Thomas
731st Air Mobility Squadron

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea (AFPN) — The United States Transportation Command in conjunction with the U.S. Forces Korea announced the opening of space-available travel for non-command sponsored family members effective immediately.

Expanding the space-available travel policy to allow family members to travel unaccompanied to their sponsor's duty location is a significant quality of life enhancement for service members stationed in Korea.

Non-command sponsored family members may now travel Space-A in Category III if accompanied by their sponsor to and from the duty location and Category V if not accompanied by their sponsor.

However, family members may not accompany their sponsor when initially reporting, because the sponsor's travel is in a duty status.

All family members must travel with a letter endorsed by the unit and group commander or equivalent.

Family member visits are limited to active-duty members serving an unaccompanied tour.

Non-command sponsored family members are authorized one 30-day visit per 365-day period and extensions are not authorized.

Non-command sponsored family members are limited to Department of Defense flights to and from the United States including territories and designated air passenger terminals serving the Republic of Korea.

Currently, there are only two that offer Space-A opportunities—Kunsan Air Base and Osan AB.

Sponsors are responsible for trans-

portation expenses to and from arrival and departure point. Additionally, sponsors must be aware of the potential that Space-A opportunities may not be available and plan accordingly based on peaks and lulls in the Space-A system.

Dependent travelers must have adequate funds for commercial travel back to their homes. With this in mind, family members wishing to travel during the busy summer months may find Space-A opportunities limited, as most travelers will be moving on a space required and official duty basis.

Family members are reminded passports are required for all visits to the Republic of Korea. However, visas

aren't required since the visit is for 30 days or less.

"As with all Space-A travel, the sooner members sign up, the better his or her chances are to catch a flight," said Chris Chipp, Air Mobility Command alternate station manager.

For more information on Space-A travel sign-up procedures in Korea, visit the Kunsan AMC webpage at <http://www.kunsan.af.mil/milpages/amc/Pax/Pax.htm>, or call the Kunsan passenger services terminal at 782-4666.

Additional information for sponsors and family members is available from the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy Seoul concerning travel to Korea.

Pride of the Pack



Job: 8th Operations Support Squadron weather observer

Hometown: Larimore, N.D.

Follow-on: Forecasting school at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Family: Marguerite (mother), Raul (father), John (stepfather), Raul III (brother), Randy (brother) and Sarah (sister)

Hobbies: Writing poetry, crafts, fishing and working with children

Words of wisdom: "Your life is a storybook read by the angels and every day is a new chapter. So don't try to change the story."

The Pride of the Pack is nominated by his or her commander, first sergeant or supervisor, or any Wolf Pack member, for outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the mission. To nominate a Wolf Pack member, send a nomination to the individual's group commander.



Senior Airman Hope Lapsitis